



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**OFFICE OF THE MEC**

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **A PROMISE MADE; A PROMISE KEPT AS MEC MEYER HANDS OVER LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL**

The MEC for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Martin Meyer, has handed over the first parcel of land to be used for the construction of a school for children with autism. This marks the keeping of a promise the MEC made when a few months ago the department took a decision to release 81 unused properties on its books.

The properties were identified during an audit which uncovered how many of the 10 067 KZN Public Works and Infrastructure assets were unused, abandoned and illegally occupied against those used for intended purposes. 81 assets, including buildings and land parcels were found to be deadweight and contributing to the nearly R2 billion rates bill.

These deadweight assets were costing KZN Public Works and Infrastructure millions in Rands per annum in rates, money which could be used elsewhere.

The handover of the land parcel in KwaDukuza is the first one for the purpose of building a school among the disposed cluster with more unutilized assets to be released in the near future.

During his address, MEC Meyer said the handover symbolized precisely the department's goal of being a household entity which ordinary members of the community can understand exists to serve them.

"I am often asked which part of my work brings me the most meaning. I have to say without a doubt that it is this. To know that as a department we have touched the young lives of tomorrow's leaders by positively shaping their future by having a hand in the provision adequate learning infrastructure is to understand why we are here. We do not just build schools and hospitals, but we see ourselves as contributing towards the healing and reshaping of many generations to follow", said MEC Meyer.

A very thankful organization also expressed that they had been trying for several years to secure a suitable site without success and that through the handover of the land parcel by KZN Public Works and Infrastructure they can continue their work of nurturing the young minds so they can go on to become proud members of our society.

The handover of the land parcel in KwaDukuza is also significant as it happens during the month of June, which is Youth Month.

It is also significant because during MEC Meyer's upcoming budget speech the creation of opportunities for communities and the empowerment of young people are among the 6 key priorities of his budget where he will make new announcements around how his department will expand on these offerings.

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